

FOR the third year in succession, the Berks and Bucks Football Association has refused Wycombe Wanderers entry into the London Senior Cup. And the club are extremely annoyed with the decision.

Blues secretary Bert Crump said this week: "It is surely in everybody's interest that we take part in this competition. Some regard it as the second Amateur Cup and it is now almost as big as the F.A. Challenge Trophy. It would bring added interest to the club by producing more attractive fixtures.

"I don't understand the Berks and Bucks' attitude. It seems a good chance to bring added prestige to both the club and the county. As far as I know, it is the only County Association refusing clubs entry to the London Senior Cup.

"We have always fulfilled our commitments to the county and, of course, we would still stay in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. Last year we applied and were told that the refusal was due to the change in players status. This time we were told the application was refused after discussion among the members."

The Berks and Bucks F.A. secretary, Mr. Charles Twelftree, told the 'Free Press' this week that the matter was decided at a full council meeting. "This was put to the vote by the 28 members and they decided against it," he said.

Mr. Twelftree added that one reason could be that Berks and Bucks are not an 'overlapping county' — that is, they are not within the 15-mile radius of Charing Cross Station, which is the limit of the London F.A. Many counties, such as Surrey, Middlesex and Kent overlap into that area and are affiliated to both F.A.'s and are therefore entitled to enter the competition.

The Hertfordshire F.A. do not come within that radius and yet DO allow some of their clubs to enter the London Senior Cup. The Berks and Bucks do not.

It seems the county F.A. are adamant in refusing Wycombe's

entry into this competition — and yet it is almost impossible to find a reason for their decision. The fact that Wanderers would bring prestige to the county and would continue to enter the county Senior Cup (which would have priority over the London Senior), seem only to emphasise Wycombe's case for entry into the competition. And there appears to be no radical reason for the county's refusal.

As Mr. Twelftree says: "It all comes down to how individuals feel when the matter is put to the vote."